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In the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows.

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Claim 1 (currently amended) An ornamental insert for a picket fence ~~or trellis~~ having a plurality of equispaced pickets and parallel spaced-apart rails secured to said pickets defining ~~an a square~~ opening with a pair of adjacent pickets,

said ornamental insert comprising a body having a perimeter and a center, and brackets projecting from the perimeter from diametrically opposite sides of the body, each bracket having a pair of opposed sidewalls adapted for straddling and engaging said pickets or parallel rails, [[.]] and abutment surfaces formed on the perimeter on diametrically opposite sides of the insert body between the brackets and equi-spaced from the brackets for abutment with said pickets or parallel rails, said brackets and abutment surfaces being equi-distant from the center.

Claim 2 (cancelled) The ornamental insert as claimed in claim 1, in which each said ornamental insert has abutment surfaces formed on the perimeter on diametrically opposite sides of the body between the brackets and equi-spaced from the brackets.

Claim 3 (currently amended) The ornamental insert as claimed in claim 1, ~~in which the openings are square and~~ in which the ornamental insert body is selected from the group consisting of circular, astroidal, diamond-shaped, cross-shaped and elliptical-shaped inserts.

Claim 4 (currently amended) An ornamental fence insert for a picket fence,

said picket fence having a substantially horizontally extending top rail having a bottom surface, a substantially horizontally extending intermediate rail having a top surface and being spaced below said top rail, and a plurality of equi-spaced substantially vertical pickets extending through said intermediate rail to the top rail to define ~~rectangular~~ square spaces with said rails,

said ornamental fence insert for locating in a ~~rectangular square~~ space, comprising a body having a perimeter and a center, an upwardly facing abutment surface and a downwardly facing abutment surface formed on the perimeter of said body, ~~and said body~~ having brackets projecting outwardly and horizontally from the perimeter of diametrically

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opposite sides of the body, each bracket having a pair of opposed sidewalls defining a u-shape for straddling and engaging said vertical pickets, [[.]] and in which said downwardly facing abutment surface is adapted to seat on said intermediate rail top surface and said upwardly facing abutment surface is adapted to abut with the top rail bottom surface whereby the fence insert can be retained, said brackets and abutment surfaces being equidistant from the center.

Claim 5 (cancelled) The ornamental fence insert for the picket fence of claim 4, in which said downwardly facing abutment surface is seated on said intermediate rail top surface and said upwardly facing abutment surface is in abutment with the top rail bottom surface whereby the fence insert is vertically retained.

Claim 6 (currently amended) The ornamental fence insert for a picket fence as claimed in claim 5 4 in which said opposed sidewalls are joined by a web.

Claim 7 (currently amended) The ornamental fence insert for a picket fence as claimed in claim 5 6 in which each of said opposed sidewalls ~~overlaps~~ is adapted to overlap a surface of one picket, in the direction of the horizontally extending direction of said rails, by a distance less than one half of the dimension of said picket in said direction, whereby sidewalls of adjacent fence inserts ~~do~~ would not impinge.

Claim 8 (original) The ornamental fence insert for a picket fence as claimed in claim 4 in which said body is substantially circular-shaped.

Claim 9 (withdrawn) The ornamental fence insert for a picket fence as claimed in claim 4 in which said body is substantially astroidal-shaped.

Claim 10 (withdrawn) The ornamental fence insert for a picket fence as claimed in claim 4 in which said body is substantially diamond-shaped.

Claim 11 (withdrawn) The ornamental fence insert for a picket fence as claimed in claim 4 in which said body is substantially cross-shaped.

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Claim 12 (original) The ornamental fence insert for a picket fence as claimed in claim 4 in which said body is substantially elliptical-shaped.

Claim 13 (cancelled) The use of the ornamental fence insert as claimed in claim 4 in a picket fence having a plurality of equispaced pickets and parallel rails secured to said pickets defining an opening with a pair of adjacent pickets.

Claim 14 (original) A picket fence having the ornamental fence insert of claim 4.

Claim 15 (currently amended) A picket fence comprising:

a substantially horizontally extending top rail having a bottom surface, a substantially horizontally extending intermediate rail having a top surface and being spaced below and parallel to said top rail, and a plurality of spaced substantially vertical pickets extending through said intermediate and top rails to define rectangular spaces with said rails,

an ornamental insert for said rectangular spaces, said ornamental fence insert comprising/~~having~~ a body having a perimeter, an upwardly facing flat abutment surface and a downwardly facing flat abutment surface formed on the perimeter of said body ~~for abutting in abutment with the top rail bottom surface and~~ the bottom surface of the top rail and the top surface of the bottom rail, respectively, and brackets projecting outwardly and horizontally from the perimeter of said body, each bracket having a pair of opposed sidewalls defining a u-shape for straddling and engaging said vertical pickets.

Claim 16 (cancelled) The picket fence as claimed in claim 15, in which said downwardly facing flat abutment surface is seated on said intermediate rail top surface and said upwardly facing flat abutment surface is in abutment with the top rail bottom surface whereby the fence insert is vertically retained.

Claim 17 (currently amended) The picket fence as claimed in claim ~~16~~ 15 in which said opposed sidewalls are joined by a web.

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Claim 18 (currently amended) The picket fence as claimed in claim ~~16~~ 15 in which each of said opposed sidewalls overlaps a surface of one picket, in the direction of the horizontally extending direction of said rails, by a distance less than one half of the dimension of said picket in said direction, whereby sidewalls of adjacent fence inserts do not impinge.

Claim 19 (original) A picket fence as claimed in claim 15, in which the spaces are square and in which the ornamental insert is selected from the group consisting of circular-shaped, astroidal-shaped, diamond-shaped, cross-shaped and elliptical-shaped inserts.

Claim 20 (currently amended) The ornamental insert for a picket fence ~~or trellis~~ as claimed in claim ~~[[4]]~~ 1 in which said insert ~~and said picket fence or trellis are~~ is metal.

Claim 21 (currently amended) The ornamental insert for a picket fence ~~or trellis~~ as claimed in claim ~~[[4]]~~ 1 in which said insert ~~and said picket fence or trellis are~~ is plastic.

Claim 22 (currently amended) ~~The ornamental fence insert for a picket fence~~ as claimed in claim 15 in which said insert and said picket fence are metal.

Claim 23 (currently amended) ~~The ornamental fence insert for a picket fence~~ as claimed in claim 15 in which said insert ~~and said picket fence are~~ is plastic.

Claim 24 (original) The picket fence as claimed in claim 19 in which ~~said picket fence and said insert are~~ is metal.

Claim 25 (original) The picket fence as claimed in claim 19 in which said picket fence and said insert are plastic.

Claim 26 (cancelled) A trellis comprising a pair of parallel, spaced-apart rails, a plurality of transverse equispaced pickets extending between the rails and joined to the rails defining rectangular openings with the rails, and an ornamental insert for insertion in at least one rectangular opening, said ornamental insert comprising a body having a perimeter, and brackets projecting from the perimeter from diametrically opposite sides of

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the body, each bracket having a pair of opposed sidewalls adapted for straddling and engaging said pickets or parallel rails.

Claim 27 (cancelled) A trellis as claimed in claim 26, in which the rectangular openings are square and in which the ornamental insert is circular and has abutment surface, formed on the perimeter on diametrically opposite side, of the body between the brackets and equispaced from the brackets about the perimeter.

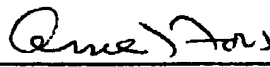
Claim 28 (cancelled) A trellis as claimed in claim 26, in which the rectangular openings are square and in which the ornamental insert is selected from group consisting of circular, astroidal, diamond-shaped, and cross-shaped inserts.

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It is believed the application now complies with all formal requirements.
Favourable consideration and allowance accordingly are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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